

REMARKS

The Examiner's Action mailed on November 21, 2007 has been received and its contents carefully considered. A petition for a Two-month Extension of Time is filed herewith, extending the period for response to April 21, 2008.

In this Amendment, Applicant has amended claims 1, 4-14, 17, 18, 20 and 22, and added new claims 23 and 24. Claims 1, 10 and 23 are the independent claims, and claims 1, 4-15 and 17-24 are pending in the application. For at least the following reasons, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance.

Claims 4, 17, 18, 20 and 22 were objected to for improper dependency and informalities, and claims 17 and 18 were rejected under 35 USC §112 for lack of antecedent basis. Claim 1 has been amended so that claim 4 has proper dependency, and claims 17, 18, 20 and 22 have been amended as appropriate. It is therefore respectfully requested that the objections be withdrawn, and the rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1, 4 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as anticipated by *Kawa et al.* (JP 2002-297309 A), and claims 5, 6 and 10-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over the combination of *Kawa et al.* and *Keely, Jr. et al.* (US 2002/0063694 A1). These rejections are each respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 as amended recites a feature of “the housing portion has an internal surface having an identifying portion”, and similarly independent claim 10 as amended recites a feature of “forming a housing having an internal surface having an identifying portion” (*emphasis added*).

The independent claims have been amended to change “receiving portion” to “identifying portion”, as it is believed that the words used in the original priority document should be translated to mean “identifying portion”. The specification has also been amended to indicate that the receiving portion is an identifying portion that identifies the mounting position of the touchpad.

Further support can be found at page 5, lines 4-21 of the specification as filed (*particularly lines 18-21*): “The main portion **110** is a basic component of the notebook computer **100**, and is provided with necessary devices required by the notebook computer **100** therein. In addition, the main portion **110** includes a top housing portion **111** as shown in Fig. 2b. Referring to Fig. 2b and Fig. 2d, the top housing portion **111** includes a first surface **111c**(the external surface) and a second surface **111d**(the internal, and unexposed surface) on the underside of the first surface **111c**. The top housing portion **111** is formed with a receiving portion **111a** on the second surface **111d**. The touch pad **130** is disposed in the receiving portion **111a**. It is noted that the receiving portion **111a** has a concave portion formed on the second surface **111d** of the housing **111** in Fig. 2a and Fig. 2d. *However, the formation of the receiving portion **111a** is not limited to this as*

long as the touch pad 130 can be disposed therein and unexposed by the top housing portion 111.” (emphasis added).

Nothing in *Kawa et al.* can be construed to disclose that the area where the touchpad is mounted is any different than the rest of the housing (see the discussion below with respect to newly added claims 23 and 24, concerning the various translations). On the other hand, the housing of the present invention is configured so as to have an identifying portion that identifies where the touchpad is mounted, for example by being thinner or being concave with respect to other parts of the housing.

Kawa et al. therefore fails to teach or suggest that “the housing portion has an internal surface having an identifying portion” as recited in claim 1 or “forming a housing having an internal surface having an identifying portion” as recited in claim 10, and *Keely, Jr. et al.* is relied upon in the Office Action solely for the adhesive member disclosed in ¶[0041] thereof, so also fails to teach or suggest such a feature.

Therefore, *Kawa et al.* and *Keely, Jr. et al.*, whether taken separately or in combination, fail to teach or suggest all the features recited in claims 1 and 10 of the present application, and the above rejections are thereby overcome.

For at least these reasons, claims 1 and 10 patently define over the cited art, and are allowable. Claims 4-6, 10-15 and 19 depend therefrom, and are allowable at least because claims 1 and 10 are allowable, claim 16 having been previously cancelled in the Amendment filed October 30, 2007.

Claims 7-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious solely over *Kawa et al.* This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 7-9 depend from claim 1, which is allowable, and therefore claims 7-9 are also allowable.

Claim 17 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over the combination of *Kawa et al.* and *Garner* (US 6,501,462 B1). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 17 and 20 depend from claim 1, which is allowable, and as *Garner* fails to overcome the deficiencies of *Kawa et al.* with respect to claim 1, therefore claims 17 and 20 are also allowable.

Claims 18 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over the combination of *Kawa et al.* and *Keely, Jr. et al.* further in view of *Garner*. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 18 and 22 depend from claim 10, which is allowable, and as *Garner* fails to overcome the deficiencies of *Kawa et al.* and *Keely, Jr. et al.* with respect to claim 10, therefore claims 18 and 22 are also allowable.

Newly added claims 23 and 24 recite a feature of "a thickness of the housing portion being thinner at the receiving portion than adjacent thereto".

Support for this claimed feature can be found at page 5, lines 22-25 of the specification: "It is noted that the thickness of the top housing portion **111** at the receiving portion **111a** is thinner than that of a portion adjacent to the receiving

portion **111a**, of the top housing portion **111**" (underlined text added in the Amendment filed April 11, 2006 to correct the grammar).

A copy is submitted herewith of Applicant's translation of ¶¶[0006]-[0037] of *Kawa et al.*, as previously faxed to the Examiner on March 11, 2008 in relation to co-pending application serial number 11/515,761, filed September 6, 2006, which claims priority from this application under 35 USC §120. In relation to that application the Examiner has agreed that Applicant's translation is correct as to the meaning of ¶[0025] of *Kawa et al.* In Applicant's translation, this paragraph reads as follows:

[0025] Furthermore, if the track pad is a capacitance type, even the common surface layer **54** is thick, the detection is also performed. If the track pad is pressure type, the track pad **53** must be thin and deforms by pressing.

This is significantly different from the machine translation of *Kawa et al.* by the JPO, in which ¶[0025] read as follows:

[0025]the grade which is construction material with the hard share surface layer **54** if it is an electric capacity-type trackpad – detection of operation is possible even if thick. In the case of a pressure-sensitive-type trackpad, it is good to make thin construction material of the range of the trackpad **53** at least, and to make it change by press.

That is, the JPO machine translation appears to state that "it is good to make thin construction material of the range of the trackpad **53** at least", where Applicant's translation states only that "the track pad **53** must be thin", and the

Examiner has now acknowledged that the Applicant's translation matches a further translation now obtained by the Office.

Whereas the JPO machine translation allegedly implies that material that is not "of the range of the trackpad" may not be thin, based on the use of the phrase "at least", the correct translation of ¶[0025] does not recite "at least", and can therefore only be construed as implying that "the track pad **53** must be thin" and nothing more than that.

Kawa et al. therefore fails to teach or suggest "a thickness of the housing portion being thinner at the receiving portion than adjacent thereto" as recited in claims 23 and 24, and *Keely, Jr. et al.* is relied upon in the Office Action solely for the adhesive member disclosed in ¶[0041] thereof, so also fails to teach or suggest such a feature.

Hence, the art of record fails to teach or suggest all the features recited in newly added claims 23 and 24, which are therefore allowable.

It is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Such action and the passing of this case to issue are requested.

Should the Examiner feel that a conference would help to expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is hereby invited to contact the undersigned counsel to arrange for such an interview.

Should any fee be required, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 18-0002, and advise us accordingly.

Respectfully submitted,



April 21, 2008
Date

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ALP/pq

[0006]However, the described technology has the following problems.

[0007]In general, the coordinate input device, such as a track pad, commonly used in a notebook computer is a thin and planar element. As the track pad is installed from the inner side of an opening on the housing of the notebook computer, a step of substantially 2mm is formed between the housing and the track pad. (For example, the height of the surface layer 51). Dust is easily accumulated in the step where the dust is hardly completely cleaned.

[0008]Since a gap is formed between the housing and the track pad, waterproof is poor, and water vapor, dust and even beverages enter the housing via the gap. The sugar in the beverage adheres on somewhere. The notebook computer capable of being used in various environments has become an important topic.

[0009]Furthermore, the step between the housing and the track pad frustrates the thinning of the housing.

[0010]The invention provides a coordinate input device with thin housing. The coordinate input device has a surface common with the surface of the housing which causes no gap or step between the coordinate input device and the housing to provide excellent waterproof and prevent dust from accumulation.

[0011]The coordinate input device of the invention transfers the position information to a main body. The coordinate input device and machine carrying the coordinate input device have the following structure: the surface of the coordinate input device is common with the surface of the housing of the machine.

[0012]Furthermore, the coordinate input device has an identifying device identifying the installed position of the coordinate input device.

[0013]Furthermore, the identifying device has a device provided with a convex-concave shape, line or image emitting light to indicate the input area, profile or the position of the area.

[0014]The coordinate input device of the invention is described with the drawings.

[0015]For easy understanding, a track pad is described for the coordinate input device for a notebook personal computer (hereinafter notebook computer).

[0016]Fig. 1 is a schematic view of a notebook computer for which the coordinate input device is used. Notebook computer 1 has the same structure with the notebook computer shown in Fig. 4. The corresponding element has the same numerical. The description is omitted therefore.

[0017]In Fig. 1, track pad portion 20 has a surface common with the surface of a main body 2 of the notebook computer 1 to become a continuous surface. No gap exists between the track pad portion 20 and the main body 2, which is different from the notebook computer of Fig. 4.

[0018]Fig. 2 is a block diagram of a notebook computer system with the coordinate

input device of the invention.

[0019]As shown in the Figs, the coordinate input device comprises a CPU 41 as a central control device for controlling the entire device, a ROM 42 stored programs driving the CPU 41, a RAM 43 stored data and programs for driving the CPU 41, detecting circuit 44 detecting the operation of key 21 and outputting the signals to CPU 41, and a controller 45 outputting the signals of the track pad portion 20, click button 22 (left button) and click button (right button).

[0020]Fig. 3 is a simplified cross section of track pad. Fig. 3a is a cross section along line a-a' of Fig. 4. Fig. 3b is a cross section along line b-b' of Fig. 4.

[0021]As described above, in the notebook computer for a conventional track pad, track pad portion 24 is an opening 24 formed on a part of the main body 2 and installed from an inner side of a surface layer 51. The track pad surface layer 52 of the is bonded to the upper surface of a track pad 53 which is a detecting element of film resin film. The controller 45 is installed to the lower surface of the track pad 53.

[0022]In such a structure, as a step or gap is formed between the track pad surface layer 51 and the surface layer 51 of the main body, water vapor or dust easily invades the computer and frustrates the thinning of the computer.

[0023]

[0024]The track pad 20 is installed without step, gap, seam to be a flat condition, which prevents water vapor or dust from invading the machine and facilitates the clearing of the track pad. The reliability is raised and can be used outdoors. The common surface layer causes the machine to become compact and thin.

[0025]Furthermore, if the track pad is a capacitance type, even the common surface layer 54 is thick, the detection is also performed. If the track pad is pressure type, the track pad 53 must be thin and deforms by pressing.

[0026]Furthermore, the click buttons (left button)22 and (right button)23 are disposed under the common surface layer 54. The buttons are pushed via the common surface 54 and are integrally with the surface 54.

[0027]Furthermore, the inside mechanisms are covered by surface element, i.e. sheet key, membrane key or rubber key. The invention provides an input device and a machine such as a mobile device or a commercial machine with the coordinate input device to have better dust-proof, and water-proof.

[0028]As the coordinate input device of the invention is common with the surface layer of the machine to become an integral machine, it is to identify difficult the input area with coordinate input device by touching or viewing.

[0029]To solve the problem, convex dots or concave dots are formed on the corners of the input area of the track pad portion 20 such as the dot element 20a in Fig. 1. The

input area can also be enclosed by convex line or concave line. The dots or lines must have a height easily detected by fingers.

[0030]Furthermore, the input area can be colorized or emit light for vision identification. Or the input area is enclosed by color line.

[0031]Such design for touching or viewing can be a design with novelty.

[0032]Although the coordinate input device of the invention is described as a track pad installed in a notebook computer, the coordinate input device is not limited thereto. The coordinate input device equipped by the machine is applicable.

[0033]The invention is not limited to the described embodiment. The embodiment can be modified not beyond the scope of the invention.

[0034]The coordinate input device has the following effects.

[0035]As the coordinate input device of the invention has a surface layer common with the machine carrying the coordinate input device, no step, gap or seam exists between the coordinate input device and the housing of the machine. The housing has a continuous surface, which has high dust proof and water proof and excellent reliability.

[0036] Furthermore, as no step exists, the housing can be thinner.

[0037]The coordinate input device comprises the identifying device having a device provided with a convex-concave shape, line or image emitting light to indicate the input area, profile or the position of the area. The surface of the housing can still be continuous and the input area can also be identified.